



Mayor Robert E. Simison

**City Council Members:**

Luke Cavener, President  
Liz Strader, Vice President  
Brian Whitlock  
Doug Taylor  
John Overton  
Anne Little Roberts

May 8, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Meridian Arts Commission

FROM: Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator

RE: *Staff Updates on Public Art, Initial Point Gallery, Events (Concerts on Broadway and Art Party), Youth Performing Arts Projects Funds*

**Public Art Updates:**



- **Chateau Park:** all sculpture projects installed. Final closeout documents (final invoice, acceptance agreements, maintenance plans, resolution) are complete. Dedication event was held on April 21 at 4pm with speeches from the Mayor, Parks Director, Art Commissioner Lizzie Taylor, Parks and Rec Commissioner Dom Gelsemino, Cassandra, and the artist, Ken McCall. The hand-on zine activity and sunflower planting with the Treasure Valley Community Garden Cooperative was appreciated. Thank you all for attending the dedication event! The final touch on this project is an informational sign that will go on the restroom. The sign will identify the artwork and artist, and give information about native and adapted plants and the pollinators.

- **Lorelle Rau Mural Panels at Homecourt Bay 6:** Agreement is on track to be executed by

council on 5.6.25, and installation is planned on May 9!

- **Traffic Boxes:** The WASD MAC award winners were selected by Commissioners Brecken Bird, Bridget King, and Jay Smith, and the Mayor also chose one for the Mayor's Award. The 2D ones are all up for consideration to become traffic boxes at the May MAC meeting. I have sent a contract to the traffic box cleaning vendor so that he can go clean the boxes and give a maintenance report. Based on the maintenance report, I will identify any boxes that need to be replaced with these new WASD wraps. Assuming MAC approval, and a council resolution, 6 new boxes will be wrapped this fall.
- **Linder Road Median Public Art:** Project is on track. Artist Stephanie Inman is in the engineering stage, and steel materials have been ordered.

- **Community Center Public Art:** Artist/Designer/Consultant Stephanie Inman is working on a site plan for public art opportunities, and will present concepts to MAC at the May meeting for input. She is working with city staff and the architects to create a plan that will prioritize and strategize for 3+ public art projects at the future community center. A \$100,000 budget is tentatively planned for multiple art projects. This budget is not final and it could come directly from MAPS or be funded in part with some construction costs and some monies from MAPS. More discussion will be needed and planning through the public art plan future prioritization project list is anticipated.
- **Public Art Master Plan:** A kickoff meeting with [VIA Partnership](#) will happen in the May MAC meeting. Next steps will be launching the public art survey and promoting the survey to get as many responses as possible. Our consultant, Meridith, is scheduled to be here in person June 26-28 to tour our facilities and collection, meet in person with various city staff and council members, and to help us get set up with our public input booth at the Meridian Fine Arts Festival. [Review the event volunteer shift schedule here.](#)
- **Other projects/New Project:** planning for any new public art projects is on hold until the Public Art Master Plan is complete.



## Initial Point Gallery Updates:

- **Current Show:**
  - WASD “Framed”
- **Upcoming Show:**
  - “Dusty Chaps and Cowboy Hats: Idaho’s Ranching and Rodeo Heritage” with Boise Open Studios Collective (BOSCO)
- **IPG Call to Artists (due Friday, May 30):**
  - 16 applications so far
  - The application can be found [here](#)
  - [Please help spread the word!](#) Reach out to artists or any art groups that you think would be a good fit for displaying work in the gallery

## Events Updates:

- **Concerts on Broadway**
  - Agreements have been sent out, and I’m waiting for the final one to be returned
  - We will have 4 sponsors for the events this year!
  - Here’s the lineup:
    - Saturday, July 12: Soul Patch (returning band, country rock style covers <https://soulpatchboise.com/> )
    - Saturday, August 9: Rockabetty (NEW – 50s and 60s rock tribute to the female “rockabilly greats” <https://vimeo.com/1049520661> )
    - Saturday, September 6: Billy Blues Band (returning band, 8 members, blues and rock covers: <https://billybluesband.com/> )

## Community Art Party

Kleiner Park, September 13 from 10-3

- coincides with both national Arts in Education Week and Meridian Art Week (it will be the kickoff for Art Week!)
- Performances in the Bandshell - Most performances will run for 20 minutes on the main stage bandshell, and one featured performance will be longer – planning to ask Treasure Valley Children’s Theater for a featured performance
- Chalk art competition
- Hands-on activities
- Arts organization booths
- We are planning to do the temporary mural construction again!
- Working on the website, check for updates: <https://meridiancity.org/artparty>
- Please help reach out to any businesses that didn’t participate last year and might be a good fit!
- **Youth Performing Arts Projects Update:**
  - We are not going to do the Youth Performing Arts RFP/grant again, *but* we are still going to use those funds to do a direct hire and pay for some of those same organizations to come and perform at the Community Art Party event. The reason we are not doing this as an RFP/grant is due to the considerable amount of effort and resources that were required from both the applying organizations and city staff. (I also want to note that despite my very best effort to increase those funds, council did not have a desire to increase these funds.) So instead, we are going to utilize those same funds and contract direct hires for youth performing arts groups to come to the Art Party and perform. This will still give these organizations those funds, will give them a performance outlet in Meridian, and it will make it much easier for them as they won’t have to apply or complete any grant paperwork!

